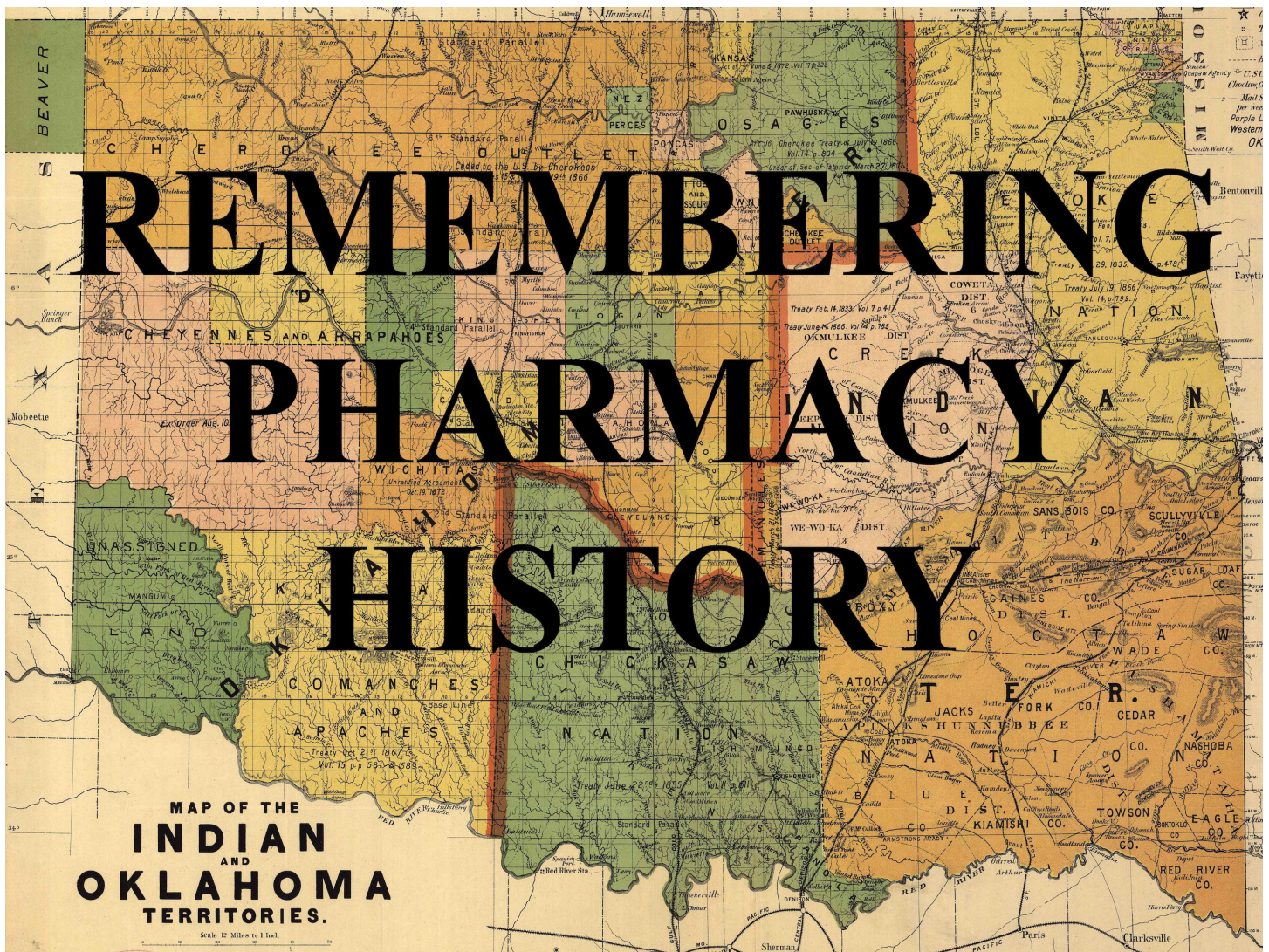


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Kimbrough & Jones Drug Company of Oklahoma City.



Cover Logo based on an 1892 map of Indian and Oklahoma Territories in the United States Library of Congress.

Kimbrough & Jones Drug Company of Oklahoma City.

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Since the years before Oklahoma statehood, pharmacists' ownership of multiple drug stores has been commonplace. The so-called "chain drug store" grew in popularity during the early years of the twentieth century and has become even more dominant in the current-day pharmacy environment. In the Capitol Hill district of Oklahoma City, few were more popular than the well-known Kimbrough & Jones drug stores. In the early years of its development, Capitol Hill's business climate was ripe for expansion. Joe Kimbrough and Roger Jones were entrepreneurs ready to help the community grow along with their business interests.

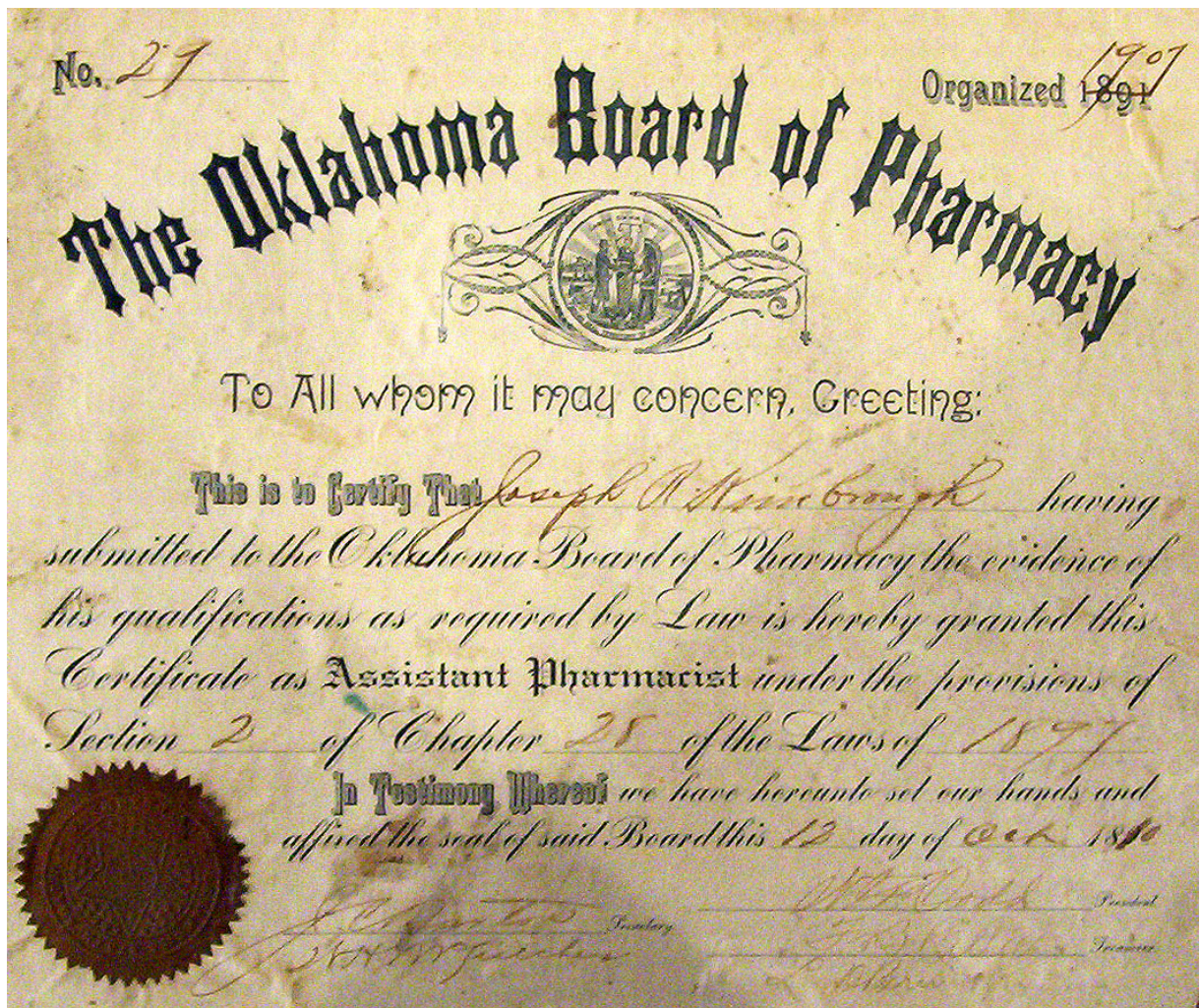
Joseph Raymond Kimbrough

Joe was born in Dutch Mills, Washington County, Arkansas, on March 25, 1889. His father managed a local general merchandise store as well as the post office, but died when Joe was four years old. His mother, Lou, married Walter E. Phelps and, in 1898, the family moved to Choctaw Township, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Territory.

In about 1905, Joe's family moved to the University Heights region of Oklahoma City where he attended school. After finishing high school, Joe went to Kansas City where he worked in the Hunter Brothers Drug Store beginning in January of 1908. During his time in Kansas City, he took a short course to learn about pharmacy. Joe returned to Oklahoma City in January of 1909 and took a position with the Cole & Stevens Drug Store at 106



Joseph Raymond Kimbrough and wife Rosa Lee (seated) with daughter Margaret Jo. From Rita Bogart.



Assistant Pharmacist certificate number 29 issued to Joseph R. Kimbrough, 1910. From the Oklahoma Frontier Drug Store Museum, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

West Main Street. Later in the same year, the store became Palmer & Stevens Drug Store, also referred to as the Horseshoe Pharmacy. Joe remained at the store until January of 1910.

On January 11 and 12, 1910, Joe took the pharmacy examination in Oklahoma City. His grade on the examination was adequate for a license as an assistant pharmacist and he was issued certificate number 29. In January of 1911, Joe passed the examination with a grade adequate to be licensed as a pharmacist and was given certificate number 2053 by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy.

On September 5, 1910, Joe married Rosa Lee Grimsley, who was also an employee at the Horseshoe Pharmacy. They moved to the Capitol Hill district, where Joe started working in the drug store owned by the Riggan brothers. It was here that he met and became good friends with Roger Ellis Jones. In April of 1916, Joe established the Kimbrough Drug Company store across the street from Riggan's store and asked Roger to join him. In 1918, Roger entered into a partnership with Joe and the store became known as Kimbrough & Jones Drug.

The first Kimbrough & Jones Drug Store at 25th and South Robinson Avenue was followed, in 1923, by a second store at 23rd and South Central Avenue and, in 1926, by a third at 29th and South Shields Boulevard. Their partnership was dissolved agreeably in 1939, at which time Joe became sole owner of the first and second of their stores. Roger became sole owner of the third store at 29th and South Shields Boulevard.



Interior of Kimbrough Drug in Oklahoma City, ca. 1916. Joseph R. Kimbrough is standing in the middle. From Rita Bogart.

In addition to his partnership with Roger Jones, Joe also became a partner with Clyde B. Tinkle in establishing his fourth drug store, located at 837 Southwest 29th Street. Clyde graduated from The University of Oklahoma (OU) School of Pharmacy in 1921 with a Pharmaceutical Graduate (Ph.G.) diploma. Soon thereafter, the Kimbrough & Tinkle Drug Store was opened in Capitol Hill. Clyde Tinkle died on September 12, 1945.

Joe had already, at least partially, retired from the drug business by the time of Clyde Tinkle's death. In 1943, Kimbrough Drug at 25th and South Robinson Avenue was sold to Jerry B. Sheen and Clifton B. Smith of Oklahoma City. In the same time period, the store at 23rd and South Central Avenue was purchased J. Frank Jordan. After Tinkle's death, Joe was back in the drug business. The store previously known as Kimbrough & Tinkle became Kimbrough Drug until Joe died in 1964.

On July 8, 1918, Margaret Jo, the only child of Joe and Rosa Kimbrough was born in Oklahoma City. She married Harry Dean Alexander on September 24, 1942. Harry became a pharmacist, graduating from OU in 1955 with a B.S. Degree in Pharmacy, and worked in Kimbrough Drug. Margaret died on August 27, 2000.

Joe helped promote the Capitol Hill area of Oklahoma City, was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Odd Fellows, and the Baptist Church. In the 1920s, he helped found the Capitol Hill Savings & Loan Association and served as director of the organization. Also, he was a director of the Oklahoma National Bank and on the board of directors of the Commercial Club.

Joe died on December 30, 1964, and is buried in Sunny Lane Cemetery, Del City, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Rosa is buried next to Joe, having died on June 2, 1958.



Harry Dean Alexander in front of the Jordan Drug Store, formerly Kimbrough & Jones Drug Store #2, at 23rd Street and South Central Avenue in Oklahoma City, 1940s. From Rita Bogart.

Roger Ellis Jones

Roger Jones was the first in a family of pharmacists that served the health care needs of Oklahoma City residents for three generations, beginning in about 1916.

Roger was born on May 1, 1897, in Falmouth, Pendleton County, Kentucky, a son of William M. and Lillie Mae (Oldham) Jones. He was the fourth born of ten children reared on a 200 acre tobacco farm along the South Lick River that flowed through the town of Falmouth. Even though the farm was in the rich, bottom land of the river and both of Roger's parents had been born in Kentucky, William decided that more land would be needed for his large and growing family. After hearing of new lands being opened for homesteading in Oklahoma Territory, the Jones family, including William's parents Darius and Mary, moved west. In 1904, they arrived by train in Oklahoma City and purchased farm land southeast of town in Boone Township, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Territory.

Roger was smaller than his more robust older brothers and was allergic to multiple allergens in the farm



Roger Ellis Jones, ca. 1918. From Richard Jones.



Kimbrough Drug at 25th and South Robinson Avenue, 1916. From left are Jeff Beaty, jeweler in the store, Roger Jones, Joseph Kimbrough, and Lon Nichols, of the Oklahoma City Police Department. From Rita Bogart.

environment. In 1912, a concerned rural route carrier and his wife became aware of Roger's predicament and need for specialized health care. They offered to take him into their home in the Capitol Hill district of southwest Oklahoma City in order for him to be closer to needed medical care. Roger's family agreed and he soon moved into their home and attended local Oklahoma City schools.

Roger became a student at Lee Elementary School and graduated from Central High School on North Robinson Avenue, in downtown Oklahoma City. In the summer of 1913, to help pay his way in his new home, Roger began working in the Riggan brothers' Owl Drug Store on South Robinson. This is where he received his first exposure to pharmacy, working for \$3.00 per week stocking and dusting shelves, sweeping floors, delivering prescriptions, serving at the soda fountain, and engaging in a myriad of other duties associated with student labor. With time, he became interested in the prescription counter and began learning about the profession from pharmacists working in the store. The head pharmacist in particular, Joseph Raymond Kimbrough, assumed the role of mentor for young Roger.

Joe Kimbrough was about eight years older than Roger, but the two became friends as well as business partners. In April of 1916, Joe decided to start his own drug store and asked Roger to join him. Roger accepted and they both left the Riggan Drug Store and moved across the street to the new Kimbrough Drug Company store.

Roger managed the Kimbrough drug store for the next fourteen years, all the time learning about pharmacy and the compounding and filling of prescriptions. He was able to find time to attend the Carver Chiropractic College, located at 521 West Ninth Street in Oklahoma City, and graduated with honors in June of 1918.

Also in 1918, Roger met and married a beautiful girl, Rae Brown, who came into Kimbrough Drug one day. She was born in 1899 in Collins County, Texas, and moved to Oklahoma City with her parents in 1912. Roger and Rae purchased a house close to Kimbrough Drug and started their family. In November of 1918, Roger became a partner in Kimbrough Drug. Rae's advice was the deciding factor when Roger decided to stay in the drug business rather than to become a chiropractor.

Roger and Rae Jones had four children, Roger Lee, Charles Edward, Mary Lou, and Joseph Auren "Ronnie" Jones. Ronnie, the last born, was named for Roger's partner, Joe Kimbrough. The name Auren was given to Ronnie because he was born in 1939, the golden (Au) anniversary year of the 1889 run for unassigned land in the Indian Territory. Each of their children grew up in the drug store atmosphere of the Kimbrough & Jones stores, but only the second born child, Charles Edward, would make pharmacy his profession and career.

On April 12, 1933, Oklahoma Governor William Henry "Alfalfa Bill" Murray signed Senate bill 139 enabling all persons with eight years of practical experience filling prescriptions under the supervision of a registered pharmacist to take the examination to become a licensed pharmacist. Roger fit that description and passed the examination in November of 1933. The Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy had decided that the certificates issued under the new law would be labeled "Undergraduate Certificate" in red letters since there was not a requirement



Kimbrough & Jones Drug Company store at 25th and South Robinson, 1918. From Richard Jones.



"Undergraduate Certificate" issued to Roger Jones on November 13, 1933, by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. From Richard Jones.

for the applicants to have had a college course before taking the examination. Those who had spent two years in a school of pharmacy were required to have only three years of practical experience. Pharmacists who received these certificates were frequently referred to as "red letter pharmacists."

Beginning in 1918, the Kimbrough & Jones Drug Store name became very popular all over Oklahoma, but especially in the Capitol Hill district of Oklahoma City. The company continued to grow and eventually expanded to three stores, the first one located at 25th and South Robinson Avenue, the second at 23rd and South Central Avenue, and the third, opened in 1926, at 29th and South Shields Boulevard. Rae's advice to Roger had paid off.

In 1939, the Kimbrough & Jones partnership dissolved amicably. Roger maintained sole ownership of the drug store at the corner of 29th and South Shields Boulevard, in an area sometimes referred to as the "gateway" to the oil fields of south Oklahoma City. This store became known as Jones Drug. Joe Kimbrough took the other two stores, forming partnerships with other pharmacists and remaining in the drug business for several years afterward. Joe died on December 30, 1964. In 1945, Roger sold Jones Drug and entered real estate, insurance, and banking businesses.

Roger was an active member of the pharmacy profession. He served as first vice-president of the OPhA in 1943, and continued as a member of the Executive Council until fall of 1944. Along with Joe Kimbrough, Roger was also active in the Oklahoma City Retail Druggists Association (OCRDA) and helped make arrangements for local radio stations to promote the OPhA bond drive for the purchase of ambulance planes during World War II. He served as president and Executive Board member of the OCRDA.

Roger was also extremely interested and dedicated to the welfare of his Capitol Hill community. He was a founding member of the Capitol Hill Commercial Club, later the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce, and served as the organization's second president. He was also a member of the board of the chamber for several years. Additionally, Roger was a charter member and president of the Capitol Hill Kiwanis Club, Chief Real Estate Officer and member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma National Bank in Capitol Hill, and Chairman of the Board of Stewards of the Capitol Hill Methodist Church. He also served as a member of the Oklahoma County Planning Commission and the Oklahoma County Excise Board.

The tradition in pharmacy that Roger started was continued by his son Charles Edward Jones, born August 11, 1922. Charles, like his siblings, grew up at the family home in the 200 block of Southwest 23rd Street, two blocks from the main Kimbrough & Jones Drug Store. Charles worked in the drug store while attending local Capi-



Members of the OPhA Executive Council, ca. 1943. Roger Jones is standing in the middle between Pete Weaver, OPhA Executive Secretary, on the left, and Bert M. Jones of Tulsa. Seated left to right are R. L. Gilbert of Lawton, Otis Wood of McAlester, and Lawrence Northcutt of Ponca City. From Richard Jones.



Roger Jones (on right) at the KTOK radio station in Oklahoma City, 1944, promoting the OPhA bond drive to aid the purchase of ambulance planes during World War II. Others are Mrs. John Conrad, president of the Oklahoma City Retail Druggists Association Auxiliary, and E. E. Duncan, Secretary of the Oklahoma County Retail Druggists Association. From Richard Jones.

tol Hill schools. Before his sophomore year at Capitol Hill High School, Charles transferred to the Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore, Rogers County, Oklahoma, graduating in 1940. He attended Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater for one year before joining the United States Army Air Corps, where he spent the duration of World War II. On the home front, Roger and other members of Charles' family did all they could to support the war effort.

During his aviation training days in Phoenix, Arizona, Charles married his hometown sweetheart, Julia Marie Campbell, daughter of Webb L. and Vida (Berry) Campbell. Julia grew up in Capitol Hill and was a high school student working behind the soda fountain at Jones Drug in 1941, during the time that Charles was in school at Stillwater. She and Charles met during one of his visits home. In 1942, she traveled by train to Phoenix where she and Charles were married in a local Methodist Church. Charles and Julia had three sons, Charles Terry, Richard E., and David W. Jones.

Charles served for four years during the war, including a tour in the European Theater of Italy, Austria, and France. When he returned to civilian life, he enrolled in the College of Pharmacy at The University of Oklahoma (OU). Roger encouraged him to pursue pharmacy as a career and promised to start a new drug store where Charles could work after he graduated.

During the post-World War II years, enrollments at OU, as well as in other colleges and universities around the nation, burgeoned. Charles and many other veterans received the financial benefits of the new G. I. Bill and OU built special Quonset hut housing where they could live while attending classes. After one year of living in these quarters, Charles and Julia decided to buy their own home in south Oklahoma City, close enough for Charles to commute to Norman.

Charles received the B.S. Degree in Pharmacy from OU in 1949. His graduating class numbered 103. The pre-war class of 1940 had contained 19 and the 1950 graduating class numbered 196.

During his school years at OU, Charles worked in several drug stores closer to home in Oklahoma City. These included Ralph's Drug at 29th and South Blackwelder Avenue, Crawford's Drug at 6th and North Classen Boulevard, and Redskin Drug at 29th and South Walker Avenue.

Fulfilling his promise to Charles, Roger got back in the drug business in 1950 by starting a new Jones Drug Store in a building that he constructed on his property on the northeast corner of 44th and South Walker Avenue. The Jones Building was a large two-story structure of brick and steel housing many businesses other than Jones Drug.



View of the interior of the Kimbrough & Jones Drug Store at 29th and South Shields Boulevard in Oklahoma City, ca. 1936. The fourteen year old Charles Edward Jones is standing in the middle of the picture. Kesner Hart is the clerk standing behind the soda fountain and Burton Work is the pharmacist standing behind the counter on the right-hand side of the picture. From Richard Jones.

The building also contained a grocery store, a variety store, a hair salon, and offices for physicians.

After a few years of operation, Roger and Charles took on another partner, George Zink, to allow Roger to attend to his other business interests. Charles soon became sole owner of Jones Drug and began to think about expansion in order to accommodate the growing population during the mid-1950s in south and west Oklahoma City. By 1959, Charles had opened the Capitol Hill Rx Shop down the street at 2106 Southwest 44th Street. Within a couple of years, the Capitol Hill Rx Shop was moved to the new Hillcrest Shopping Center at 59th and South Pennsylvania Avenue and became known as Hillcrest Drugs. In the early 1970s, Charles was also operating Almonte Drugs which he had opened in the Almonte Shopping Center at 59th and South May Avenue. During this period of time, Charles established prescription shops at several locations in south Oklahoma City as well as two G. E. X. Discount Pharmacies, one downtown and one in Midwest City.



Charles Terry Jones, pharmacy student at OU, examining antique pharmacy bottles donated in 1967 to the College of Pharmacy by Robert F. Rigg, 1936 OU pharmacy graduate. From Oklahoma Pharmacist, 33 (August, 1967): 9.

In 1966, Charles sold the original Jones Drug at 425 Southwest 44th Street to Al Willingham, who renamed it the Capitol Hill Drug Company. After selling his interest in his other drug stores, Charles retired from the drug business in 1975 to devote his time to real estate and real estate appraisal.

The eldest son of Charles and Julia Jones, Charles Terry or “C.T.,” was born January 24, 1945, in Oklahoma City. C.T. attended school in the Hillcrest area of Oklahoma City after his parents moved there in the late 1950s. He graduated from Oklahoma City’s U. S. Grant High School in 1963 and took classes at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater for a year before returning to Oklahoma City. In Oklahoma City, C.T. went to work for McKesson-Robbins Wholesale Drug Distributors before deciding to pursue a degree in pharmacy. He entered the pharmacy program at OU in Norman, commuting from his home in south Oklahoma City, and received the B.S. Degree in Pharmacy in 1969.

After graduation, C.T. worked as a pharmacist in Oklahoma before taking a pharmacist position in Dallas. In 1971, he entered the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine (now The University of Health Sciences of Kansas City, Missouri) and graduated in 1975. During his time in medical school, C.T. worked in various pharmacies in the Kansas City area. Returning to Oklahoma after graduation, C.T. established a private practice in Moore, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. He is currently practicing medicine in Oklahoma City.

All three pharmacists in the Roger Jones family were licensed by the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy. The certificate numbers given to them by the board were 4702 for Roger Ellis, 5666 for Charles Edward, and 7940 for Charles Terry. The practice of pharmacy was substantially different for each generation, evolving from a trade focused business to a patient oriented profession.

Roger died in Oklahoma City on November 14, 1962. Rae died on October 2, 1981. She had married Walter Weems after Roger died. Charles Edward died on March 1, 1999. They had all been members of the Capitol Hill Methodist Church.

Acknowledgements

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Bibliographic

Information and images for these biographies were collected from many sources, including files at the Oklahoma Pharmacists Association (OPhA) office in Oklahoma City as well as various issues of Oklahoma Pharmacist, Meyer Brothers Druggist, Pharmaceutical Era, The Midwestern Druggist, The Disseminator, and newspapers from Oklahoma City, descendants of Joseph Kimbrough and Roger Jones, respectively. Genealogical information for Joseph Kimbrough and Roger Jones was obtained from Rita Bogart and Richard Jones. Biographical information for Joseph Kimbrough was also found in Rex Francis Harlow and Victor Emmanuel Harlow, *Makers of Government in Oklahoma*. (Oklahoma City, Harlow Publishing Company, 1930): 536, 538. United States census records have provided valuable family-related data. The ERA and Hayes Druggists directories have been used as aids to trace pharmacy locations in Oklahoma. Especially beneficial for biographical information have been pharmacist applications for licensure as well as records of the Oklahoma Territory, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma State Boards of Pharmacy located in the Archives and Records Division of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL).



Kimbrough & Jones Drug Company store Number 3 at 121 Southeast 29th Street. From The Capital Hill Beacon, April 18, 1939.